

Land rear of 62/66
Market Place
Warminster
Wiltshire

Archaeological Monitoring and
Recording report

February 2019



**Land rear of 62/66 Market Place
Warminster
Wiltshire**

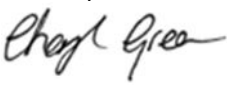
for

C1 project code: C1/AMR/17/MPW

Biltmore Ltd

REPORT

Prepared by	Dr Clare Randall, Archaeological Officer
Date	15/02/19

Approved by	Dr Cheryl Green, Post-Excavation Manager
Signed	
Date	18/02/19

Issue	01
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL DETAILS

Client project/scheme ref.	N/A
Planning Application ref.	14/00484/FUL
Local Planning Authority	Wiltshire Council
Scheduled Monument Consent ref.	N/A
Historic Environment Record ref.	N/A
Collecting Museum	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum
Museum accession code	N/A
OASIS reference	contexto1-276860

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Summary

Context One Heritage and Archaeology carried out archaeological monitoring and recording as a condition of granting planning permission for the erection of four houses and four flats on Land rear of 62/66 Market Place, Warminster, Wiltshire. The project was commissioned by bta architects on behalf of their client, Biltmore Ltd.

The Site lies to the rear of Market Place and within the core of the planned medieval settlement of Warminster. An archaeological evaluation in 2003 at the rear of 60-66 Market Place identified 13th to 14th century features.

Despite this potential, there were no archaeological features and deposits identified which could be dated to the medieval period. A small segment of drystone wall, oriented north-east to south-west, was on the alignment of the medieval burghage plots. This fragment of wall was seated directly onto the natural but was covered by a clearly disturbed and deep soil which contained modern debris, and remains undated. An undisturbed sequence of topsoil, subsoil and natural geological deposits was observed elsewhere on the Site, and no further archaeological features or deposits were seen. The absence of activity in this area may be because it was situated to the rear of the burghage plot.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Context One Heritage and Archaeology (C1) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording as a condition of granting planning permission (planning reference: 14/00484/FUL) for the erection of four houses and four flats on Land rear of 62/66 Market Place, Warminster, Wiltshire (the 'Site') (**Figure 1**). The project was commissioned by bta architects on behalf of their client, Biltmore Ltd.
- 1.2 The monitoring and recording was requested by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Wiltshire Council on the advice of the Wiltshire County Archaeology Service (WCAS). In a reply to an email consultation request from Ms Jemma Boustead (Case Officer, WWDC) on 4 April 2014, Ms Rachel Foster, Assistant County Archaeologist, WCAS stated:

"Thank you for consulting the archaeology service. The Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record and the Extensive Urban survey for Warminster shows that the town developed as a settlement in the 10th century or earlier around a royal manor sited close to the minister church. After the Norman Conquest the town expanded eastwards including the creation of the large market place in the 13th century.

The proposed development site lies to the rear of Market Place and within the core of the planned medieval settlement of Warminster. An archaeological evaluation at the rear of 60-66 Market Place in 2003 identified evidence of 13th to 14th century features. Due to the potential for archaeological remains to be impacted by the proposed development and in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (2012), I therefore recommend that an archaeological watching brief is carried out during all belowground construction work."

- 1.3 The programme of archaeological works comprised four elements: the production of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which sets out the project strategy (Milby 2017); archaeological monitoring and recording; post-excavation and report production (this document); and archive preparation and deposition.
- 1.4 The archaeological works are required in accordance with Central Government policy as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (DCLG 2012).

2. The Site

- 2.1 The Site (centred on NGR ST 87559 44968) covers approximately 1,028 square metres and is located to the south of Market Place (the B3414), within the historic core of Warminster, c. 150m north-west of Warminster Lakeside Pleasure Grounds (**Figure 1**). The Site is long and narrow (c. 50m x 20m) and exists mainly to the rear of No. 70 Market Place. Access is from the main road, via a long and narrow thoroughfare (c. 50m x 2m). The Site is surrounded to the west, south and east by residential housing and to the north by several shops, banks and public houses. Largely situated on level ground, the Site sits at an average height of c. 121m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The recorded solid geology is Boyne Hollow Chert Member Sandstone overlying sedimentary bedrock (BGS, 2017). There is no drift geology recorded, but soils are characterised as freely draining, slightly acid and loamy (CSAIS, 2017).

3. Archaeological aims and research objectives

- 3.1 The principal aims of the archaeological monitoring were to:
- identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during groundworks;
 - determine the character of the archaeological remains, where present;
 - recover environmental information, which may provide further information relating to the local historic environment of the area;
 - provide sufficient information to enable further mitigation strategies to be determined, where appropriate
- 3.2 The research objectives were to:

- identify any evidence specifically relating to the historic core of Warminster
- identify any evidence specifically relating to the 13th & 14th century remains previously discovered at 60-66 Market Place.

4. Methodology

- 4.1 All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) (December 2014) and the *Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire* (Wiltshire County Council, 1995). C1 adhered to the *Code of Conduct* of the CIfA (1985, rev. 2000, 2014), and *Regulations for Professional Conduct* (CIfA, 2014, rev. 2015). The fieldwork methodology is summarised below.
- 4.2 C1 gave notification of the commencement of the works to the WCAS, but it was not necessary for a representative to visit the Site and monitor archaeological fieldwork. Monitoring of the archaeological works will continue until the deposition of the Site archive.
- 4.3 An archaeologist was on Site to monitor all specified groundworks with the aim of identifying and recording any archaeological features/deposits present. A 360-degree tracked or 3CX type machine equipped with a toothless (grading) bucket was used to remove topsoil/overburden under the constant supervision of C1 archaeological staff.
- 4.4 By default, core details of the deposit sequence across the Site were recorded using C1 *pro-forma* profile forms in digital format using iPad mini tablets. Soil colours were logged using a Munsell soil colour chart. The frequency with which profiles were recorded was based on any variation of the deposit sequence. Spoil was examined for the retrieval of artefacts. Manual excavation was not required
- 4.5 A photographic record of the monitoring and recording was carried out and involved the sole use of digital images. The photographic record included working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

5. Results

- 5.1 Profiles of the deposit sequence were recorded in three locations during groundwork excavations (**Plates 1-3**). The footing trenches were observed to a depth of 1.2m in Profiles 1 and 2, and 1.0m in Profile 3.
- 5.2 The deposit sequence in Profile 1 comprised a topsoil (100) of very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) friable silty sandy clay. This contained frequent rubble fragments, occasional animal bone, and modern pottery fragments, and was 1.10m deep. It overlay a further topsoil deposit (101) which was similar but only contained moderate rubble frags (<0.20m) and which was 0.10m deep. This soil was directly situated over natural deposits (102) of olive brown (2.5Y 4/4) friable sand. Profiles 2 and 3 were very similar to each other, with topsoil, (200) and (300) comprising very dark grey (5Y 3/1) friable silty loamy clay with frequent angular flinty brash fragments (<0.10m), 0.40m deep. In both cases this overlay a subsoil (201) and (301) of olive (5Y 4/3) firm sandy silty clay with moderate angular flinty brash fragments (<0.10m), 0.50m deep. These in turn overlay natural deposits (202) and (302) of olive yellow (5Y 6/6) firm sandy clay with frequent angular quartz flinty brash fragments (< 0.10).
- 5.3 A single archaeological feature was discovered, crossing a footing trench and recorded in Profile 1. This was a fragmentary section of a wall constructed of a single width of random uncoursed and unbonded greensand rubble (**Plate 4**), resting on the natural deposits and aligned north-east to south-west. Up to two courses existed with the fair side to the east. It was covered with the topsoil deposit (101) which contained modern debris.

6. The finds

- 6.1 No archaeological artefacts or ecofacts were collected. Fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material (brick or tile), animal bone and modern pottery were observed but not collected.

7. Discussion and conclusion

- 7.1 Despite the potential indicated by the location of the Site within the medieval core of Warminster, and previously recorded medieval features in the vicinity, no archaeological features or deposits were present which could be identified to this period. However, in Profile 1 a small segment of drystone wall was recorded, oriented north-east to south-west and on the alignment of the medieval burghage plots. This fragment of wall was seated directly onto the natural but was covered by a clearly disturbed and deep soil which contained modern debris. It therefore may relate to the medieval town, but remains undated; the deposits above it indicate that there had been considerable recent disturbance in this area. Profiles 2 and 3 in the southern part of the Site revealed an undisturbed sequence of topsoil, subsoil and natural geological deposits, and no further archaeological features or deposits were seen. The absence of activity in this area may be because it was situated to the rear of the burghage plot.

8. Archive and dissemination

- 8.1 The NPPF requires that an archaeological archive arising from development works is made publicly accessible (para. 199). The archive comprises two parts: the paper/digital archive including site records and images; and the artefact/ecofact assemblage.

Paper/digital archive

- 8.2 Where archaeological features/deposits are recorded, the archive generated from this usually comprises site records, drawings and photographs either in paper format or born-digital data. Within three months of the conclusion of a project this is normally transferred into the care of a Trusted Digital Repository such as the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) as scanned paper records or native born-digital data. The digital archive will be compiled in accordance with the standards and requirements of the ADS, as set out on their website.
- 8.3 As no archaeological evidence was encountered, all relevant data has been incorporated into this report and the paper/digital archive will be stored on the C1 cloud storage server or discarded.

Physical archive

- 8.4 The artefact/ecofact assemblage is the legal property of the landowner (excluding any items that fall under The Treasure Act 1996). However, it is usual practice for the landowner to transfer ownership of this assemblage to a receiving institution (usually a museum) once it has been fully assessed and/or analysed. Receiving institutions store the assemblage and make it publicly accessible. Alternatively, the landowner can choose to keep the assemblage but arrangements must be made to ensure its long-term curation and public accessibility in accordance with NPPF.
- 8.5 As no archaeological artefacts or ecofacts were collected, there is no physical archive in this case.

Dissemination: report

- 8.6 Copies of the report will be submitted to the following:
- Wessex Water plc
 - the HES so that it can be included as part of the county Historic Environment Record (HER)
 - the ADS, via OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations – <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>)

Dissemination: publication

- 8.7 By default, a short entry will be prepared for publication in the summary section of the next county archaeological journal.

9. Bibliography

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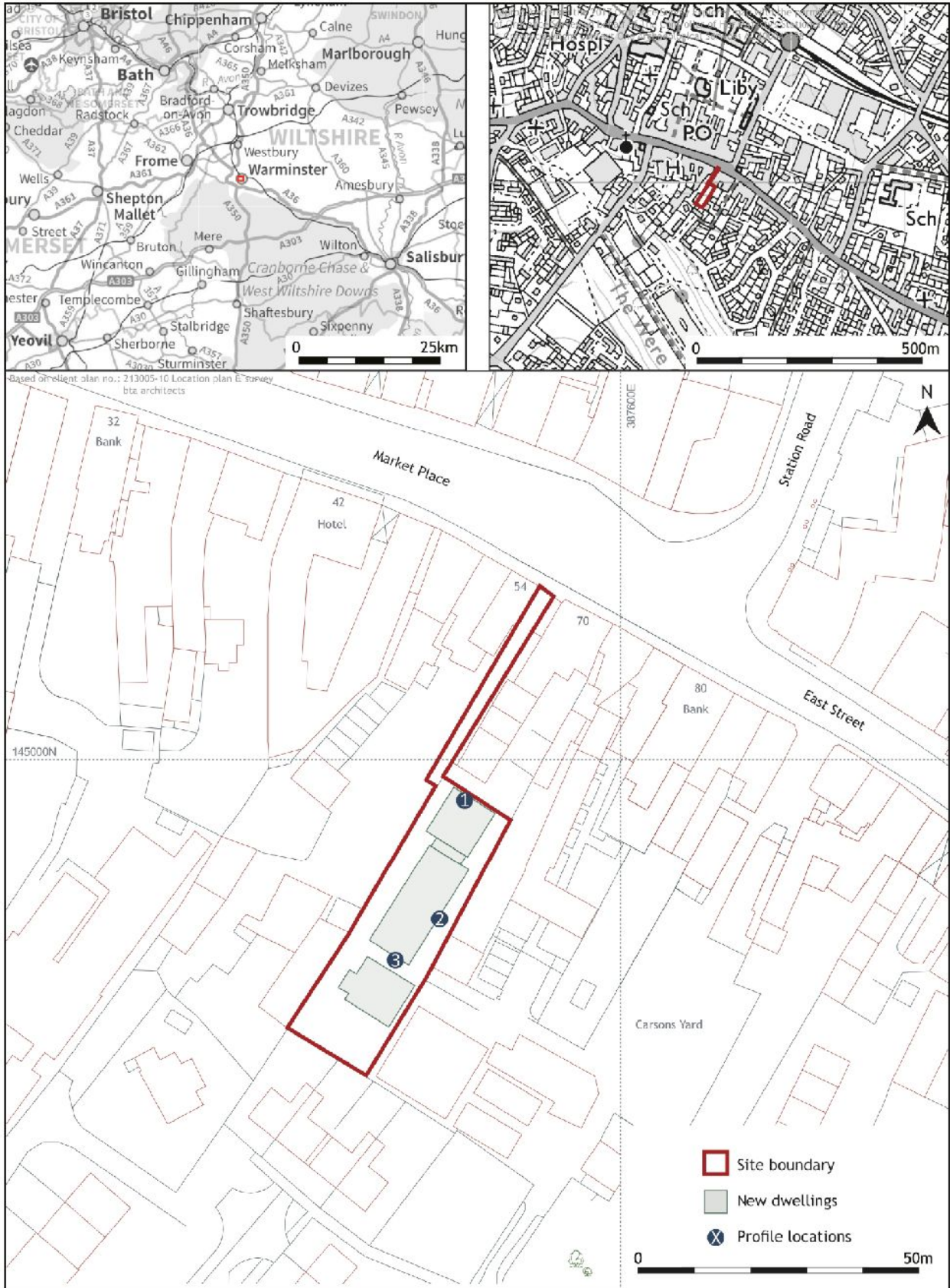


Figure 1. Site location and location of profiles.



Plate 1. Profile 1 (facing SE)



Plate 2. Profile 2 (facing SW)



Plate 3. Profile 3 (facing SE)



Plate 4. Wall in Profile 1 (facing SE; 0.40m scale)

Appendix 1: Context summary

CONTEXT NO.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	EARLIER THAN	CONTEMP. WITH	LATER THAN	LENGTH	WIDTH/DIAMETER	THICKNESS/DEPTH (m)
Profile 1									
(100)	Modern	Layer	Topsoil - Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) friable silty sandy clay with frequent rubble fragments, occasional bone and C20 pot fragments	NA		101	20m	0.60m	1.10m
(101)	Modern	Layer	Topsoil - Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) friable silty sandy clay with moderate rubble fragments <0.20m	100		103	20m	0.60m	0.10m
(102)	Geological	Layer	Natural - Olive brown (2.5Y 4/4) friable sand	103		NA	20m	0.60m	>0.05m
(103)	Undated	Structure	Wall - Green sand random uncoursed and unbonded wall on NE-SW alignment, existing to two courses with fair face to the east	101		102	0.60m	0.40m	0.20m
Profile 2									
(200)	Modern	Layer	Topsoil - Very dark grey (5Y 3/1) friable silty loamy clay with frequent angular flinty brash fragments <0.10m	NA		201	30m	1.0m	0.40m
(201)	Modern	Layer	Subsoil - Olive (5Y 4/3) firm sandy silty clay with moderate angular flinty brash fragments <0.10m	200		202	30m	1.0m	0.50m
(202)	Geological	Layer	Natural - Olive yellow (5Y 6/6) firm sandy clay with frequent angular quartz flinty brash fragments < 0.10m	201		NA	30m	1.0m	>0.20m
Profile									
(300)	Modern	Layer	Topsoil - Very dark grey (5Y 3/1) friable silty loamy clay with frequent angular flinty brash fragments <0.10m	NA		301	30m	1.0m	0.40m
(301)	Modern	Layer	Subsoil - Olive (5Y 4/3) firm sandy silty clay with moderate angular flinty brash frags <0.10m	300		302	30m	1.0m	0.50m
(302)	Geological	Layer	Natural - Olive yellow (5Y 6/6) firm sandy clay with frequent angular quartz flinty brash fragments < 0.10m	301		NA	30m	1.0m	>0.20m

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